

The BARC Newsletter is published quarterly by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) to provide news and information on agricultural research and development to the NARS and other concerned organizations in Bangladesh.

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Workshop on Achievement of Boro Rice: Problems, Potentials and Future Actions

A Workshop on *Achievement of Boro Rice: Problems, Potentials and Future Actions* was held at BARC on 24 April 2011. Mr. C.Q.K Mustaq Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture chaired the inaugural session. hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury attended the program as chief guest. In her speech the hon'ble Minister mentioned that farmers in some areas of the country have been seriously affected by cultivating some hybrid boro rice varieties this year. Systemic testing procedures are not being followed before importing those rice varieties, she mentioned as the cause of such repulsive crop performance. The hon'ble Minister expressed her dissatisfaction over negligence of the concerned personnel and urged them to be cautious about testing and certifying the hybrid rice varieties.



Begum Matia Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture
was addressing in the workshop as chief guest

Special guest of the inaugural session Mr. Anwar Faruque, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and DG (Seed Wing) expressed his concern about losing interest of farmers in cultivation of hybrid varieties. High seed price, requirement of intensive care, low market price, wide gap between potential and actual yield, sporadic crop failure etc. were the causes of losing farmers' interest, he mentioned.

Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC, Dr Md. Abdul Mannan, Director General BRRI, Dr. Nazmul Islam, Chairman of BADC and Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman,

Director General of the Department of Agricultural Extension also spoke on the occasion.

National Tree Plantation Program 2011

The National Tree Plantation Program 2011 was observed throughout the country on 1 June 2011. In this context the Ministry of Agriculture observed Fruit Tree Plantation Fortnight from 14 to 30 June 2011. As a part of a national plantation program BARC organized a seminar on *the contribution of fruits and tree to alleviate poverty*. Shawkat Momen Shahajan, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture was present as chief guest. Mr. C.Q.K Mustaq Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture presided over the seminar where Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC was present as special guest. Dr. Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Director, Horticultural Research Centre, BARI presented the keynote paper on the theme.



Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC was addressing the seminar

In his paper, he discussed about fruit security, balanced diet, way to earn from fruit cultivation and present technological status of local fruit production.

The chief guest in his speech emphasized on the needs and importance of local fruits considering their nutritional value. He laid emphasis on the production of quality planting materials of local fruits so that the people could grow more local fruit trees for meeting up the nutritional demand and earning foreign exchange after meeting the national demands. This will also help in poverty alleviation. The chairperson C.Q.K Mustaq Ahmed underlined the need for conserving local fruits for the future generation and suggested the concerned authorities to take appropriate measures. Dr. Wais Kabir,

Executive Chairman, BARC laid importance on increasing the availability of fruits round the year. In this regard he drew attention of the scientists to provide the farmers with quality planting materials. He also stressed on the reduction of postharvest losses. About 400 participants including scientists, extension and NGO personnel and farmers attended the seminar.

Workshop on Summer Onion Cultivation in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects

A day-long national workshop on *Summer Onion Cultivation in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects* was organized by Spices Research Centre (SRC), BARI, Shibganj, Bogra on 30 April 2011 at the Training Hall of SRC. The inaugural session of the workshop was presided over by the Director General of BARI Dr. Rafiqul Islam Mondal. Kbd. M.A. Mannan, MP and Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Agriculture was present as the chief guest. Executive Chairman, BARC Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Director, KGF Dr. M. Nurul Alam and Deputy Director, DAE, Bogra Mr. Md. Ekram Hossain were present as the special guests. Dr. Md. Shawkat Ali Mallik, Project Director, SRC, BARI presented the keynote paper in the workshop.

In his speech the hon'ble Member of Parliament Kbd. M.A. Mannan said, our annual production of onion is around 14 lac tons and demand is around 16 lac tons i.e our annual deficit is only about two lac tons. So only by reducing postharvest losses (presently being around 30-40%) through appropriate management we can easily meet up our demand. He also called upon the scientists to develop improved summer onion varieties to increase onion production in the country. The workshop was followed by a Field Day at the SRC premises with the participation of the local farmers. hon'ble Member of Parliament distributed seeds of BARI Ada-1 and BARI Holud-3 each at the rate of 10 kg per farmer free of cost among 40 farmers. Dr. Kabir also attended the Field Day Program as the special guest.

Dr. Wais Kabir appreciated the hon'ble MP for his pioneering role in establishing the SRC and welcomed him to the workshop on behalf of the NARS scientists. Mentioning changing food habit

of the people with the increase of income, especially with the increasing demand of different spices Dr. Kabir said, we need to strengthen spices research to reduce the volume of import. For the purpose we should come forward with more investment in this sector. Referring to the recent involvement of herbal and pharmaceutical companies with the processing and marketing of spices products the BARC Executive Chairman said, our genetic diversity of spices crops should be brought under the patent process.

AFACI Food Security Sub-project

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council has been implementing the project on *Development of Variety, Cropping System and Technology Transfer of Major Cereals for Sustainable Food Security in Bangladesh* since July 2011 with the financial assistance from Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI), South Korea. This project has been initiated with a view to enhancing cereal production through variety development, improvement of cropping system and technology transfer for sustainable food security and updating the knowledge and skills of agricultural professionals through training, visit, study tour, exchange program etc.

To review the progress of the project a day-long workshop was organized by the Crops Division, BARC on 27 June 2011 at BARC. About 50 scientists/officials from BARI, BRRI, BARC, DAE and BADC attended the workshop. The inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC. Mr. Anwar Faruque, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and DG (Seed Wing) attended the inaugural session as the chief guest. Dr. Md. Khalequzzaman Akanda Chowdhury, Member-Director (Crops) delivered the welcome address followed by a brief presentation on AFACI food security project. He highlighted the salient features of the project and its implementation status along with knowledge gathered from his recent South Korea visit. Dr. Chowdhury mentioned that rice cultivation is fully mechanized in Korea, where rice seedlings are grown commercially under green house conditions.

Mr. Anwar Faruque mentioned that mechanization could be an essential tool for increasing crop

production, minimizing post harvest losses and developing market system. He laid emphasis on adoption of South Korea's mechanization techniques for rice cultivation in Bangladesh. Dr. Wais Kabir called upon the participants to make a breakthrough in agriculture by adopting new technologies and sharing knowledge among Asian countries under the aegis of this project. He also pointed out some emerging issues of agriculture, especially the adverse impact of climate change on agriculture.



Mr. Anwar Faruque, Additional Secretary and Director General (Seed Wing), MoA was addressing as chief guest

In the technical session Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Momin, PSO, BRRI and focal member and Dr. Naresh Chandra Deb Barma, PSO, Wheat Research Centre, BARI and focal member presented the progress report (2010-11) and program (2011-12) of the project on behalf of their respective organizations. Besides, the next year programs (2011-12) of DAE and BADC were also presented. A detailed discussion was held on the presented reports and programs and it was decided that the implementing organizations would make necessary corrections/modifications on the programs as suggested in the workshop.

Training on Post-harvest Management of Fruits and Vegetables

A two-day training program on *Post-harvest Management of Fruits and Vegetables* was organized by Crops Division, during 24-25 April 2011. The main objective of the training program was to improve knowledge and skills of the concerned scientists/officials on postharvest management of fruits and vegetables for minimizing the postharvest losses. A total of 35 participants from different NARS institutes,

universities, DAE, BADC, Hortex Foundation and private companies attended the program.



Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC, giving certificates to the trainees

The inaugural session was presided over by Dr. Md. Khalequzzaman Akanda Chowdhury, Member, Director, Crops where Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC was present as chief guest. In the session, Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Chief Scientific Officer, Crops, BARC delivered welcome address highlighting the objectives of the program. Dr. Chowdhury in his address highlighted the extent of postharvest losses of fruits and vegetables. He mentioned that at present the average annual postharvest losses are as high as 20% for fruits and 25-30% for vegetables. In order to obtain food and nutritional security in the country Dr. Wais Kabir urged the scientists/officials to pay due attention in developing technologies for reduction of post harvest losses of fruits and vegetables.

In this two-day training program 10 theoretical classes were conducted covering farmers' innovative technologies, assessment of losses, harvesting, transport, packaging, storage, processing, preservation, value addition, marketing of processed fruits and vegetables, quality requirements of fresh fruits and vegetables for export, artificial ripening of fruits using chemicals at pre-and postharvest stages, pesticide residues and food safety measures. Expert scientists from relevant fields were invited as the resource speakers.

Review Workshop on Crop Improvement Program

A two-day Review Workshop on *Crop Improvement Program: Research Progress 2010-11*

and Research Program 2011-12 was organized by Crops Division, BARC during 25-26 June 2011. Sixty scientists from BARI, BRRI, BJRI, BSRI and BINA attended the program. The objectives of the workshop were to review the progress of conventional and biotechnological research and facilitate collaboration among the NARS institutes.



A view of the Review workshop on Crop Improvement Programme

The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. M. Khalequzzaman Akanda Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops), BARC and Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC attended the session as the chief guest. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Chief Scientific Officer, Crops, BARC welcomed the participants and highlighted the objectives of the workshop. Dr. Wais Kabir said that future crop improvement would depend on the creation of variability by manipulation of desired genes. Dr. Chowdhury, in his remarks, mentioned that some countries of Asia-Pacific region viz. China, India, Iran and the Philippines have already harnessed the benefits of biotechnological research in food security. The potential benefits of biotechnology for sustainable agricultural production, productivity and food security are yet to be exploited in Bangladesh, he added.

This two-day workshop included four technical sessions and a plenary session. The technical sessions were on Varietal Improvement of Cereals, Oilseeds and Pulses; Varietal Improvement of Horticultural Crops; Varietal Improvement of Cash Crops and Crop Improvement through Biotechnology. A total of 16 papers were presented by the scientists from five NARS institutes. The technical sessions were chaired by Dr. K.A.

Chowdhury, Dr. M.A. Khaleque Mian, Professor, Dept. of Plant Breeding, BSMRAU and Dr. Md. Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan, Professor, Dept. of Plant Breeding, SAU were present as experts and gave their remarks and inputs on crop improvement programs. The plenary session of the workshop was chaired by Dr. Wais Kabir. He reiterated the need of research investment in crop improvement program. A good number of recommendations were made in the plenary session with emphasis on the development of salt, drought and heat tolerant crop varieties.

Workshop on CIARD and RAIS in the Training SAARC Countries

A three-day training workshop on *Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) and Strengthening Regional Agricultural Information Systems (RAIS) in the SAARC countries*, jointly organized by SAARC Agricultural Centre (SAC), the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations was held during 10-12 May 2011 at BARC, Dhaka.

Prof. Dr. M.A Sattar Mandal, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh was present as chief guest in the inaugural session of the workshop. The session was chaired by Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC. The inaugural session was addressed among others by Dr. Attaluri Srinivasacharyulu, Coordinator of APPARI, Dr. Ajit Maru, Representative of GFAR, Dr. Gerard Sylvester, FAO Representative, Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director and Dr. S.K Paul, Deputy Director (Agriculture) of SAC.

Welcoming the participants and highlighting the importance of exchange of information pertaining to agricultural research and development Prof. Dr. M.A. Sattar Mandal said, usable information are not so wide. As far as the improved varieties are concerned, there should have complete information about early or late, planting time and other relevant information so that the farmers can have maximum yield, he added. We are also facing similar

problems of information gap in the case of animal disease and process of vaccination, the BAU Vice Chancellor said. More contribution to the agricultural research and development could be made through dissemination of correct information and timely intervention, he added.



A view of the inaugural session of the training Programme

Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC said, South Asia is encountered with multiple challenges like ensuring of food security, gradual decrease of arable land and increase of population. Highlighting the need for exchange of information in agricultural research and development Dr. Kabir mentioned that the success stories of agricultural research could be extrapolated to the other countries through an effective information exchange mechanism. He requested the APAARI authority to play an active role in sharing agricultural information in the Asia-pacific region and taking measures for timely forecasting of the possible outbreak of trans-boundary animal diseases so that the loss from this kind of event could be minimized.

The objectives of this international training program were to upgrade capacities and skills of Information and Communication Managers (ICM) in the SAARC countries and to improve their participation in the RAIS-CIARD activities. A total of 35 participants including 22 from other SAARC countries attended the training workshop.

Regional Workshop 2010-2011 on Outreach and Information Dissemination for Rajshahi and Rangpur Regions

The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) organized a day-long *Regional Workshop 2010-2011 on Outreach and Information Dissemination*

for Rajshahi and Rangpur Regions on 04 June 2011 at Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra. The objectives of the workshop were to review the project activities, assess the progress/outputs/outcomes, share experiences and discuss project implementation related other issues. It also offered opportunities to identify technology needs, regional problems and their probable solutions.

A total of 105 participants attended the workshop, 28 from DAE, 25 from DLS, 27 from DoF and 26 were from other organizations (KGF, Hortex, PCU, NARS institutes, RDA, media). The Project Director of PCU, Directors of PIUs, Consultants/Experts of PCU and PIUs, concerned BARD officials and local electronic and print media personnel also attended the workshop.

The workshop was conducted in four sessions where DAE, DLS, DoF, Hortex, RDA and PCU presented papers on their regional activities. The workshop had very enthusiastic participation of all implementing units, decent power point presentations, lively discussions on the presentations as well as problems and prospects of NATP. Besides, the workshop helped orient the local participants about the concept, goals, activities and outputs/outcomes of NATP. The workshop ended up with some recommendations which may be useful for the implementers, planners and policy makers. The major recommendations were:

1. Baseline data/information from the project areas to be collected and preserved at FIAC and upazila. Baseline data/information is necessary to assess the impact of the project intervention and the adoption of new technology.
2. Interdepartmental coordination at upazila and district level needs to be strengthened through frequent meetings and consultations among DAE, DLS and DoF; and also by holding of UECC and DECC meeting regularly.
3. DAE, DLS and DoF should work in a more coordinated way to support FIAC. FIAC should be developed as an effective one-stop service center for CIG members and other farmers. The departments should provide sufficient extension materials and inputs to FIAC. Problems raised and discussed by the farmers during their visit to

FIAC should be properly recorded, and which should be utilized as the inputs for planning of future training and demonstration programs.



Dr. M.A. Razzaque, Project Director, PCU, NATP was addressing the workshop

4. Monitoring activities should be strengthened. Regular field monitoring by interdepartmental joint monitoring team and timely submission of monitoring report should be ensured. Quick action on the findings of monitoring will ensure timely implementation of field activities and achieving outputs/outcomes. PCU should undertake frequent field visits and monitoring.
5. Decentralized extension service and bottom-up planning process must be strengthened; timely planning and implementation of CIG Micro Plans (CMPs), Union Extension Micro Plans (UEMPs) and Upazila Extension Plans (UzEPs) to be ensured; and CIG capacity in preparing and implementation of micro plan needs to be enhanced.
6. Researchable issues/problems to be identified from the field (in consultation with CIG) during project implementation and fed back to researchers. High priority should be given to research on the identified problems to find solutions. Climate resilience varieties and production technologies to be developed.
7. In many working areas, CIG farmers will be involved in the implementation process of CGP and SPGR research projects. Considering the importance of research-extension linkages, the field workers should co-operate the researchers actively.
8. Impacts/outcomes of the project activities/outputs, particularly the effects of demonstrated technologies (i.e. adoption of improved

technologies, increased productivity, higher farm incomes, farmer-market-linkages, institution building, etc.) should reach the neighbouring farmers beyond CIGs. All these should be recorded upazila-wise.

9. Training Need Assessment (TNA) to be done for making the trainings more effective. Timings of trainers should be planned to spread them over the whole year to accrue maximum benefits from them instead of concentrating at the end of the year. Resource persons from research institutes should be selected along with the departmental trainers to diverse the knowledge base. An inventory of trained farmers is essential for following up their performance. While calculating the number of farmers trained, each farmer should be counted one time only even if he gets trainings on several subjects.
10. Marketing, transportation and local level storage facilities to be developed/improved. SCDC should address the issues like, quick marketing and proper preservation of perishable products; and improved packaging and safe transportation of agricultural/food commodity.
11. Local practices under NATP and success stories of CIGs/farmers should be published in local media for technology diffusion among other farmers/ stakeholders.
12. Filling up vacant posts of DAE/DLS/DoF at upazilas is necessary to help accelerate project implementation.

It may be mentioned that PCU organized five similar regional workshops during 2010-2011. The first workshop was held in Jessore for Khulna and Jessore regions, the second in Mymensingh for Mymensingh region, the third workshop was at BARD, Comilla for Sylhet and Comilla regions and the fourth workshop was held in Cox's Bazar for Chittagong region. PCU's last regional workshop for this fiscal year was held on 09 June 2011 at BARC Auditorium, for Barisal-Dhaka regions.

Executive Council Meeting

The 89th, 90th and 91st Executive Council meetings were held at BARC on 21 April, 26 May and 9

June 2011 respectively. The meetings were presided over by Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC and Chairman of the Executive Council.



Executive Chairman of BARC, Dr. Wais Kabir was addressing the EC Meeting

The 89th EC meeting reviewed the implementation and progress of the decisions taken in the 88th meeting. The research proposals and budgets of BFRI (fisheries) for the fiscal year 2010-2011 were discussed and approved in the meeting. Seven SPGR sub-projects were also approved in this meeting. The 90th EC meeting reviewed the implementation and progress of the decisions taken in the 89th meeting. The research proposals and budgets of SRDI for the fiscal year 2010-2011 were discussed and approved in the meeting. The 91st EC meeting reviewed the implementation and progress of the decisions taken in the 90th meeting. It approved the revision of the SPGR sub-projects which were approved in the 89th EC meeting and also approved a new SPGR sub-project on the 'Consequences of Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh'.

Bangladesh for GM Crop Development to Cope with the Changing Climate

A national workshop on *Biotechnology for Crop Improvement under Changing Climate* was held at Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI), Ishurdi, Pabna during 17-18 June 2011. Dr. M. Motlubor Rahman, former Executive Chairman, BARC attended the inaugural program as the chief guest. Dr. Rahman said, the scientific community of Bangladesh has unanimously agreed upon the country's needs to meet the food deficit through biotechnological approaches and introduction of GM crops.



A view of the inaugural ceremony of the workshop

The scientists and university teachers spoke on various aspects of biotechnology including the global status of commercial biotech crop cultivation. The workshop was attended by around 120 scientists and university teachers. The technical session was chaired by Dr. Gopal Chandra Paul, Director General of BSRI, who underlined the need for developing sugarcane varieties resistant to red rot disease and other abiotic stresses. Accordingly, a Red Rot Group has been formed to develop red rot resistant varieties of sugarcane using conventional breeding and biotechnological tools.

Project Completion and Monitoring Reports under Research Grant Fund of BARC

A three-day workshop on *Review of Project Completion and Monitoring Reports under Research Grant Fund of BARC* was organized by the Planning and Evaluation Division of BARC during 21-23 June 2011. The objectives of the workshop were to review the achievement and identify the constraints to the implementation of the research programs. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC attended the program as the chief guest where Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Director General of BARI was present as the special guest. The program was presided over by Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member Director, Planning & Evaluation, BARC. Dr. Paresh Chandra Golder, Chief Scientific Officer (Planning & Evaluation), BARC in his welcome address highlighted the workshop's objectives and some significant achievements made by the projects. Eighty six participants from different NARS institutes, agricultural universities and BARC attended the workshop.



A view of the workshop where Dr. Wais Kabir, BARC was present as chief guest

Dr. Wais Kabir in his opening speech emphasized proper implementation of the programs as per plan to achieve expected outputs. He laid emphasis on monitoring for successful implementation of the project/program. He urged the BARC scientists to participate in the monitoring activities of the projects in time. Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mondal urged the participants to discuss the programs constructively through which some recommendations could be made. This project fund has been very useful in conducting research in the NARS institutes, he added. The chairperson of the session thanked the program leaders for successful completion of the projects. The inaugural session of the workshop was followed by six technical sessions. Thirty six research papers were presented in five technical sessions by the respective program leaders of NARS institutes, agricultural universities and BARC. A technical session was held for presentation of seven monitoring reports which were presented by the monitoring team leaders or their representatives.

MoU Signed Between BRRI and Petrochem (Bangladesh) Ltd

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Gazipur and Petrochem (Bangladesh) Limited, Uttara, Dhaka on the 29th May 2011 in the Conference Room of Petrochem (Bangladesh) Ltd, Head Office, Uttara, Dhaka. The MoU was signed by Dr. M.A. Mannan, Director General of BRRI and Mr. A.B.A. Siraj Uddowlah, Managing Director of Petrochem (Bangladesh) Ltd. The MoU aims at developing mutual cooperation between BRRI and the Petrochem (Bangladesh) Ltd. for dissemination of BRRI developed rice technologies through Petrochem.

Under this technical cooperation agreement BRRI will provide the quality Breeder seed of modern and hybrid rice varieties for its multiplication and Petrochem will make high quality rice seeds available to the farmers. The BRRI will also supply parental lines of hybrid rice for production of F₁ seeds locally which will help popularize the BRRI developed hybrids. This will help to minimize foreign currency for importing hybrid seed. BRRI will also impart training to PCL personnel and contract seed farmers for technical capacity building. Petrochem will extend all necessary logistic support to BRRI and maintain high quality of seeds through their own seed processing, preservation, packaging and marketing networks. This type of public-private-partnership (PPP) will help availability of advanced technologies to the private sector for variety improvement, capacity building and transfer of technology to the farmers.



MoU was signed between BRRI and Petrochem

Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC, Dr. Md. Khairul Bashar, Director, Research, BRRI, IRRI-Bangladesh Liaison Scientist Dr. MA Hamid Miah, Protocol Officer of BARC Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman and other senior scientists from BRRI, officials from Seed Certification Agency, SCA, and Director, Finance and Administration, Mr. Asif Uddowlah, Petrochem (Bangladesh) Ltd and other senior officials of Petrochem were present on the occasion.

Contract Signed between BARC and TTT

A contract (Contract Package No. SD/PIU-BARC/11) was signed between BARC and Training and Technology Transfer (TTT) on 12 May 2011 at a hotel in the capital for logistic

support for arranging foreign training, higher studies, workshop, study visit, Post-doctorate etc. A signing ceremony was held in this connection, where the senior officers of BARC and TTT were present. The contract was signed by Dr. Md. Abul Kashem, Director of PIU-BARC on behalf of BARC and Dr. Md. Anwar Javed, Regional Director of TTT on behalf of TTT. The Executive Chairman of BARC Dr. Wais Kabir attended the program as the chief guest. While commenting on the contract Dr. Kabir hoped that foreign HRD programs of the NARS scientists would be facilitated through this contract.

Chinese delegation meets the BARC Executive Chairman

A four-member Chinese delegation met the Executive Chairman of BARC Dr. Wais Kabir at the Conference Room of the Council on 21 April 2011. The delegation members were Hu Yan'an, Deputy Director General of Foreign Economic Cooperation Centre, MOA, Chen Lijun, Director, Department of Int'l Cooperation, MOA, Tang Zhishao, Director, Foreign Economic Cooperation Centre, MOA and Young Gobao, Chairman of Hubai Provincial Seed Group. The meeting was also attended among others by Mr. Anwar Faruque, Additional Secretary and Director General, Seed Wing of the MoA, Bangladesh, Director of Hybrid Rice Division of BRRI, Mohammad Masum, Chairman of Supreme Seed Company and the senior scientists of BARC.

Mr. Anwar Faruque highlighted the entire gamut of Sino-Bangladesh bilateral cooperation in agriculture, particularly in expansion of hybrid rice cultivation in Bangladesh and higher studies in agriculture. Describing the higher cost and lack of availability of hybrid rice seed as the major constraints to expansion of hybrid rice cultivation in Bangladesh Mr. Anwar Faruque requested the Chinese delegation to make an arrangement so that the parent lines can be produced in Bangladesh even with cost sharing. The Chinese officers said, because of the soaring price of rice and increasing labour cost the price of hybrid seed has increased. They, however, showed their interest to strengthen cooperation in agriculture between the two countries.



Executive Chairman of BARC exchanging views with Chinese delegates

Referring to the recent China visit of a high powered delegation led by the hon'ble Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury the Executive Chairman of BARC Dr. Wais Kabir said, during the visit the Chinese counterpart was requested to support salt tolerant rice variety development in Bangladesh. Dr. Kabir also sought more cooperation in higher study programs. Mr. Mohammad Masum, Chairman of Supreme Seed Company said Philippines and some other countries are receiving A line & R line from China. China will be lagging behind in the rice seed market in Bangladesh unless parental lines are supplied to the country, he added. The delegation members said, the Chinese govt. is keen to establish a demonstration centre in Bangladesh. Mr. Anwar Faruque mentioned that the Bangladesh government is quite positive to facilitate such venture of the Chinese government.

BRRI Research Field Executive Chairman visited

Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC visited the BRRI research field on 24 April 2011. He inspected the performance of different BRRI developed lines, observed the comparative performance of the two salt tolerant rice varieties BRRIdhan-47 and Binadhan-8. He also observed the performance of NERICA and BRRI developed hybrid rice varieties. During the visit the Director General of BRRI Dr. Abdul Mannan and the senior scientists of BRRI were present.



Executive Chairman of BARC observing the performance of BRRI developed lines

Communication Workshop on Field Monitoring of SPGR Sub-projects

A day long *Communication Workshop on Field Monitoring of SPGR (Sponsored Public Goods Research) Sub-projects* was held at the BARC on 25 May 2011. A total of 90 participants comprising the coordinators and principal investigators of all the sub-projects from different NARS institutes and universities and monitoring team members of BARC attended the workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to review the progress of the project activities and findings of the monitoring teams and take corrective measures with a view to improving the performance of the grants provided.



The inaugural session of the workshop was addressing by the Executive Chairman of BARC

The workshop was conducted with four technical sessions and a brief inaugural session. Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member Director, Planning and Evaluation, BARC presided over the inaugural session. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as the chief guest. Dr. Paresh Chandra Golder, Chief Scientific Officer, Planning

and Evaluation, BARC in his welcome address stated the workshop objectives and importance of monitoring and evaluation in implementing research projects. The chief guest requested the Coordinators and Principal Investigators to implement the Sub-projects properly and successfully. He mentioned that the future project funding would depend much on success of this project. Dr. Kabir urged the coordinators and principal investigators to expedite the expenditure of research activities and related procurements. The chairperson Dr. Hussain mentioned that the planned activities of the Sub-projects to be completed in time. He also suggested that the Monitoring and Evaluation cell members of the ARIs and universities should monitor the Sub-projects regularly for timely and properly running of the project activities.

The monitoring team members of BARC reported and presented updated status of the activities of all Sub-projects. There was a consensus that reporting and presentation of the monitoring teams should be done as per supplied format covering all aspects of technical, procurement, HRD, financial and internal monitoring. The coordinators/principal investigators of the Sub-projects interacted on the monitoring findings and urged to take appropriate actions based on the findings of monitoring.

The technical sessions were chaired by Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC, Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member Director Planning and Evaluation, Dr. Md. Khalequzzaman A. Chowdhury, Member Director, Crops and Dr. Ahmad Ali Hassan, Member Director, NRM. A total of eight monitoring reports were presented on 33 Sub-projects.

Training Course on Illustrator and QuarkXpress

Agricultural Information Centre, BARC organized a training program on *Illustrator* and *QuarkXpress* during 22-23 May 2011 at BARC. The major objectives of the program were to make the AIC personnel capable of graphic designing, text processing and page make up using Photoshop, Illustrator and QuarkXpress. The course was designed to cover image processing, photo editing, text processing and page layout in printing and photography both by theoretical and practical classes. In the closing ceremony, Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the

participants. The training program was presided over by Mrs. Dil Afroz, Director, AIC, BARC. Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hossain, Member Director, Planning and Evaluation and Dr. S.M. Khalilur Rahman, Director, Manpower and Training were present as the special guests. Dr. Kabir appreciated the program and suggested to continue such courses for enriching the scientific publications.



Mrs. Dil Afroz, Director AIC was addressing the concluding session of the programme

Training Course on Econometric Analysis through Different Computer Software

Two batches of a five-day training program on *Econometric Analysis through Different Computer Software* were organized by Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Division, BARC during 16-20 May and 06-10 June 2011. The objectives of the program were to find out appropriate method of analysis to get better results and find out the observed results under Bangladesh agricultural situation. A total of 36 participants for two batches from different NARS institutes attended the program. In both inaugural and closing sessions Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as the chief guest. Dr. Kabir emphasized on the need for econometric analysis of policy research to ensure food security in the country. Dr. S.M. Khalilur Rahman, Member Director, AERS, BARC and Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, PSO, BARC briefed the objectives of the training program. In each batch, 27 lectures were delivered covering different aspects of economics that needed statistical applications through different computer software such as E-view EASY, TSP, SPSS, etc. Scientists from NARS institutes and Professors of relevant field from Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Asha University and United International University

were the resource speakers. Participants were benefited from the training program by acquiring knowledge about econometric analysis using different computer software for policy research under Bangladesh agricultural situation.



Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC distributing certificates among the participants

Appointment with BARC Executive Chairman

Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Regional Director, CABI South Asia met Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of

BARC on 12 June 2011 at the later's office at Dhaka. During the meeting they exchanged views on how activities of CABI could be expanded in Bangladesh.

Mr. Joselyn Valer, a renowned economist and value chain analyst of Peru, who has been appointed as a consultant for conducting Value Chain Analysis of High Value Crops for Shouhardo II program of Care Bangladesh. Shouhardo II program is considered to be one of the largest food security programs jointly funded by USAID and Government of Bangladesh. Mr. Joselyn Valer was called on Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC on 15 June 2011. During the meeting they had interaction on establishing possible links between BARC and Shouhardo II initiatives.

Mr. Howarth E. Bouis, Director of Harvest Plus, IFPRI, Washington, USA met Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC on 19 June 2011 at the later's office at Dhaka. They exchanged views on the present status of wheat-maize production in Bangladesh and discussed the ways and means of increasing production of these crops in the country.

Readers and Contributors

The scientists, technologists and concerned officials involved in NARS institutes are requested to send articles, success stories, research highlights and reports on important events with quality photographs for BARC Newsletter. Cooperation in this regard as well as your valuable comments and suggestions for our future endeavour would be highly appreciated.

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